

Driver Charged in Fatal Crash Near Odessa

Odessa – The Delaware State Police have arrested an Ocean Pines man after he left the scene of a crash yesterday afternoon.

The collision occurred around 3:15 p.m. Friday July 9, 2021 as a 2015 BMW 428, being operated by a 61-year-old Camden-Wyoming woman, was traveling northbound on Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway (SR1) in the left lane approaching Exit 136 with Middletown Odessa Road (SR299). A 2003 Nissan Sentra, being operated by **Luke A. Sichau**, 25 of Ocean Pines, MD, was traveling northbound on SR1 in the right lane next to the BMW. The Sentra began to merge into the left lane of travel and collided with the right side of the BMW causing the BMW to travel off of the west side of the roadway and into the grass median where it began to enter into a slide. The BMW then struck the back face of the guardrail positioned on the east side of SR1 southbound and roll overtop of the guardrail. The BMW then came to a stop on its roof in the grassy area between the guardrail and the southbound travel lanes of SR1. During the collision, a 92-year-old female passenger, who was unrestrained and seated in the right rear seat of the BMW, was ejected from the vehicle and came to rest partially within the southbound left thru lane.

The 92-year-old female from Camden-Wyoming was airlifted from the scene by Delaware State Police Aviation (Trooper 4) and transported to Christiana Medical Center (CMC) where she was later pronounced dead. Her name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The 61-year-old female operator of the BMW and a 59-year-old male front seat passenger, also from Camden-Wyoming, were both properly restrained. They were transported by EMS to

Christiana Care Middletown Emergency Department where they were treated and released with minor injuries.

Following the collision, the Nissan Sentra continued northbound on SR1 and fled the scene. At approximately 5:30 p.m., Luke Sichau responded to State Police Troop 9 in Odessa and turned himself in. Sichau was charged with Leaving Scene of a Collision Resulting in Death (Felony) and Operation of a Vehicle causing Death of Another Person (Misdemeanor). He was arraigned at JP11 and released on \$2,000.00 unsecured bond. Sichau was uninjured in the collision.



Luke Sichau

SR1 northbound and southbound was limited to the right travel lane for approximately 4.5 hours while the collision was investigated and cleared.

The investigation remains on-going. Anyone with information regarding this collision should contact Detective J. Forester with the Delaware State Police Troop 2 Collision Reconstruction Unit by calling 302-365-8485. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at <http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com>.

If you or someone you know is a victim or witness of crime or have lost a loved one to a sudden death and are in need of assistance, the Delaware State Police Victim Services Unit/Delaware Victim Center is available to offer you support and resources 24 hours a day through a toll free hotline 1800 VICTIM-1. (1-800-842-8461). You may also email the unit Director at debra.reed@state.de.us.

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Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Gary Fournier

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